VENDURUTHY—ACQUISITION OF LANDS

140. Mr. L. M. Pylee (*Latin Christians-Ernakulam*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the number of families and persons who evacuated from Venduruthy owing to the land acquisitions for Military purposes;

(*b*) the number of such families and persons who settled at the colony at Nettur provided by the Government;

(*c*) how long is it since the settlement began;

(*d*) whether any school has been provided for the children in the said colony;

(*e*) whether any place of public worship has been provided for them;

(*f*) whether there was any application for permission to put up a church at the colony and what action was taken on such application?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*):

(*a*) 2,000 families evacuated from Venduruthy owing to land acquisitions.

(*b*) 298 families.

(*c*) Over one year.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) Yes. There were two applications before. In these two cases the petitioners' requests were not granted as the sites selected were objectionable. Steps are being taken to select an unobjectionable site?

Mr. L. M. Pylee (*Latin Christians-Ernakulam*): May I know, whether there were schools in Venduruthy whence they were evicted?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): I think there was one.

Mr. L. M. Pylee (*Latin Christians-Ernakulam*): My information is that there was more than one. Will Government see that more schools are provided.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): Already there are two schools in the locality and there is sufficient accommodation for more than 130 new students that might come in. I made a reference to the Department of Education and the reply of the Deputy Inspector shows that there are two schools already that there is sufficient space to take in more than 130 boys in addition and that there is absolutely no scope for starting a new school at all.

Mr. L. M. Pylee (*Latin Christians-Ernakulam*): How far are these schools from one another?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): In Nettur itself—not outside Nettur.

Mr. L. M. Pylee (*Latin Christians Ernakulam*): With regard to (f) it is said that the requests were not granted because the sites were objectionable. May I know the objection?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): The site was in the plot that was acquired for housing these people. If a portion of that site was to be used for church purposes, that means about 30 families will have to go without habitation.

Mr. L. M. Pylee (*Latin Christins-Ernakulam*): Were these places inhabited?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan-Peishkar*): They were marked out for specific applicants. It may be that they did not occupy but as soon as they find money they will come and occupy.

Mr. L. M. Pylee (*Latin Christians-Ernakulam*): At what stage of the application was the acquisition proceeded with by the Government?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): It was taken to the State when the site was inspected and when it was found that no portion of it can be taken away without taking back the properties that were given.

Mr. L. M. Pylee (*Latin Christians-Ernakulam*): Were some of the officers of the Government, after the consideration of the first application, suggesting informally that the site suggested in the second application was the better one?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): Not to my knowledge.

Mr. L. M. Pylee (*Latin Christians-Ernakulam*): May I know, Sir, when these sites are being proposed in the second application, hopes were being given by the Special Officer appointed to some of these people?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): The Special Officer was given copies of the Government order asking him to allocate to the several familes the several plots at the rate of 6 cents per family. He was bound to carry out the order. He was ready to give plots to those people who were entitled under the scheme.

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Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin Christians-Ernakulam):* Why did he wait till the last time?
Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I answered, not to my knowledge.
Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur):* Who are the people who are taking steps?
Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* My Department.
Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur):* At what stage is it now?
Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Negotiations are going on. There is a temple on the site proposed to be selected. If those persons who should remove temple, they should be paid compensation. If we leave-out that site, there is no unobjectionable site. It does take time to negotiate to get good result. It is a question of other communities also being satisfied. To remove a temple for the location of a church is not very easy.
Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin Christians-Ernakulam):* What is the size of the temple.
Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* It is not a very big temple.
Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin Christians-Ernakulam):* What are the appproximate dimensions?
Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I have not measured.
Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin Christians-Ernakulam):* Have you seen it.
Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I have seen it.

QUALITY OF RICE SUPPLIED BY GOVERNMENT

141. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) are there not complaints about the quality of rice supplied to the ration-card holders in the State;

(*b*) what has been done to remedy the defects?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):*

(*a*) There have been some complaints.

(*b*) The complaints relate to both home-grown and imported rice. In regard to the former the complaint is that it contains husk and also it is inferior in quality due to defective process of milling. According to the present rules the paddy can be passed through the huller only once when it is milled. This is the reason for the husk noticed in some cases. Strict instructions have been given to the mills to see that the rice is free of husk as far as possible. The question of getting over this difficulty is also under consideration. The defective process of milling is caused by over-soaking and over-boiling the paddy which the mill-owners resort to for showing increased out-turn. For this the mill-owners have been informed that it is not the out-turn but it is the quality that matters, that they are to surrender only whatever out-turn is obtained in normal course and that over-soaking and over-boiling should be avoided. The quality of rice is also spoiled on account of the water, in which the paddy is boiled, not being changed frequently. Orders have been issued for removing all these defects. The officers of this Department have been specially asked to see that the above instructions are acted upon to make surprise inspection of the mills to detect fraud and report any defect noticed on the part of the mill-owners. As a result of the particular attention that is being paid in the matter, the quality of rice has now improved. There was still a complaint that though the rice milled in some mills could not be found fault with from its appearance, it has no proper taste, when it is cooked. Hence steps have been taken to test the quality of rice milled in the various mills by taking samples thereof and cooking them to see whether there is anything wrong.

In regard to imported rice the complaints are mainly two, *viz.*, (*i*) that the quality is bad and (2) that the major portion of it is raw rice. The inferior quality of imported rice is mostly what we received from Sind. The purchase of rice in Sind is done by Government agency. It has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the Sind Government and the Central Government and also the Regional Food Commissioner that sometime we have been getting very inferior quality of rice. The matter was also taken to the personal notice of the Hon'ble Sir J. P. Sreevastava (Food Member) and Hon'ble Mr. Sen (Director-General of Food) of the Government of India. They were pleased to take note of this defect and kindly promised to take prompt action in the matter. It is hoped that as a result of these steps there will be definite improvement in the quality of rice supplied from out side. We have also instructed our Rice Officers and agents in British India to pay attention to the quality of rice and to reject stock which is not of fair average quality. With regard to the raw rice, it is inevitable, under the present circumstances, that the State should accept a portion of the rice quota in raw rice as this is all that can be obtained. It has been pointed out to the Food Department of the Government of India that the majority of the people of the State is used only to par-boiled rice and that its requirements as regards rice should be met as far as possible by allotting par-boiled rice. This fact has been taken note of

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